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Tuesday, August 7, 2012

# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Tropical Storm Ernesto strengthens in Caribbean



MIAMI (AFP) - Tropical Storm Ernesto picked up strength yesterday in the Caribbean threatening the coasts of Belize and Mexico, US weather forecasters said.

The Miami-based National Hurricane Center (NHC) said Ernesto was packing winds of 65 miles (105 kilometers) per hour as it powered across the Caribbean toward Central America.

The storm is expected to bring heavy rain and high winds to Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, where authorities are on alert.

Some 1,500 people have been evacuated from Nicaragua's coastal areas and from the Miskito Cays island chain, with authorities predicting strong winds and powerful

waves.

In Honduras authorities have issued a "24-hour yellow alert," readied evacuation plans and prepared to deliver humanitarian aid.

And in Guatemala, equipment and other humanitarian support have been sent to northern regions of the country in preparation for the storm's effects.

A hurricane watch was in effect for the entire coast of Belize, while parts of the Yucatan Peninsula's east coast were under a hurricane warning.

The Mexican beach resort of Cancun, located further north on the Yucatan peninsula, was also under a tropical storm watch.

## Commemorative first issue Aruba coin bears image of owl

The "Koninklijke Nederlandse Munt" in Utrecht, the Netherlands, has minted a special commemorative coin for Aruba embedded with additional information. The embedded information can be read with a Smart phone. By scanning the coin with a Smart phone the user will be able to learn more about Aruba's cave owl. The owl is also embedded on the coin. The "Koninklijke Nederlandse Munt" is the first minting house in the world to use the "augmented reality" system to mint coins with embedded contents.

This commemorative coin is available for purchase for about 50 Euros.

Only 2500 coins have been minted. On the face of the coin, which has a value of 5 Aruban florins, the cave owl which lives only on Aruba is engraved.



Several months ago, the owl was proclaimed Aruba's national symbol. For this reason the Central Bank of Aruba decided to have a commemorative coin minted. Everyone who scans the coin with a special app will encounter the embedded information of this protected owl and information

about the coins of Aruba. On the face of the coin the owl is embedded in color, which was made possible through the use of a special photographic technique.

For information on where to purchase one of these commemorative coins, please consult the Central Bank of Aruba.

## UN pulls observers out of Aleppo

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - UN observers have been moved out of the besieged Syrian city of Aleppo because of worsening security, a UN spokeswoman said yesterday. The approximately 20 unarmed observers were moved back to the mission's Damascus headquarters at the weekend.

"It is a temporary relocation because of the deteriorating security," Josephine Guerrero, a UN peacekeeping spokeswoman, told AFP.

Aleppo was one of four regional bases where the UN Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) had retained teams, even though their main activities have been suspended since June. There are also UN offices in Deir Ezzor, Homs and Rif Damascus, which is in the capital's suburbs.

The UN has halved the number of observers in Syria to about 150 since last month. The UNSMIS mandate ends on August 20 and the UN Security Council has yet to agree

on the future UN presence in the country.

UNSMIS's interim chief Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye said yesterday that the civil war is worsening and expressed particular concern over Aleppo.

"I am extremely concerned about the continued violence in Syria in particular the significant deterioration in Aleppo

and its impact on the civilian population," Gaye said.

"I urge the parties to protect civilians and respect their obligations under international humanitarian law. Civilians must not be subjected to shelling and use of heavy weapons," Gaye added, renewing calls for "dialogue" between the government and opposition.

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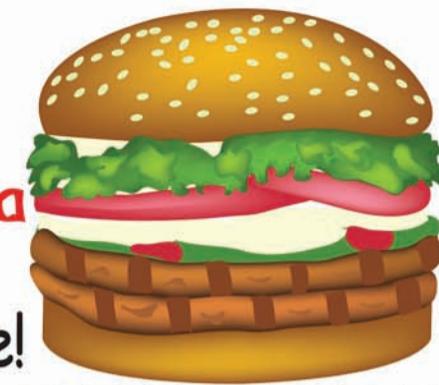


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## IOC member, Mrs. Nicole Hoevertsz presents medal at London Olympic Games



One cannot help but be proud when an Aruban gets the opportunity to present a medal in the greatest sporting event of the world: The Olympic Games. These games attract billions, via television, websites, newspapers and or radio. After presenting a medal a few days back in a swimming discipline, Aruba's Nicole Hoevertsz, member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), was once again called upon to present a medal, this time in the weightlifting sport.

As a member of IOC, Mrs. Hoevertsz presented the medal in the 94 kilogram category, which was won by athlete Ilya Ilin of Kazakhstan, a repeat gold medalist, as Ilya also won gold at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games also.



Congratulations to Nicole Hoevertsz who made the Aruban delegation and Aruba, proud to see one of our own presenting an Olympic medal via the TV screens of the Olympic Broadcasting Services.

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## New foundation has 4.3 million for maintenance of sport facilities

Several months ago the Fundacion Facilidad di Deporte (FFD) was officially founded, and is now the official body in charge of renovating and maintaining the ten sports facilities pertaining to the government and Lotto. All facilities have been transferred to the foundation.

After a careful review of the physical condition of the infrastructures, the foundation has begun the process of renovating and maintaining these facilities. From Parliament they received approval for a budget of 4.3 million Aruban florins for FFD.

A team in charge of the program will ensure that there is a permanent program and structure in place for the periodic maintenance of all facilities.

After carefully reviewing all the facilities, it was noted that the Centro Deportivo Frans Figaroa in Noord is in pretty good shape and in need of only normal maintenance. The artificial turf needs some attention and the roof will have to be replaced within two years. This particular facility in Noord is used a lot by Noord inhabitants and surrounding area. The rest of the island also uses it frequently, hence the reason to keep it well maintained.

The Minister of Sports indicated that historically governments have been very careless about maintaining facilities. This, he declared will change with the establishment of the FFD. By placing the 10 facilities under one organization will result in a much better management and will ensure an integral maintenance management that will keep these facilities in top condition.

The Stadion Crismo Angela/Nadi Croes has had a great deal of work done. They repaired the net and did a lot of maintenance. The next phase is to raise the fence around the complex to make it impossible



**At Guillermo Prospero Trinidad Stadium**



**At Winston Field**



**At Frans Figaroa Stadium**

to see the games other than from the stands. Paying to see the games also helps the teams to create funds to be able to continue their programs.

In view of the victory of the Junior League Latino Americano, this particular field will

be used for special training for the team preparing for the Michigan games. There is a special technical team to train the young people to help improve their game for the Michigan championship.

**Continued on page 5**

**Tuesday**

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## Make oil for wings of victory, United Nations

(*Traha azeta pa halanan di Victoria, Nacionnan Uni*)

By: Roland W. Peterson

In 1942, these words were pasted on the billboard standing in front of the R.K. church, San.Francisco, in Oranjestad.

Outside the theater of war in Europe, Aruba was the first island in the Western hemisphere that Nazi Germany attacked

On Wednesday, August 1, 2012, at the office of notary Mr. Yarzagaray, the deed for the "Memorial Park Foundation," was signed.

The founding fathers, Roland W. Peterson (president) John M. Peterson (secretary) and Ronald Provence (treasurer) are very proud to present this noble Foundation.

It has been more than seventy (70) years ago that U-boats of Nazi Germany, during WWII, torpedoed oil tankers in the waters around Aruba. Many sailors paid the ultimate sacrifice for Aruba, but nowhere on the



island is there a sign or a token of Aruban appreciation.

More than 47 courageous sailors of 12 different countries died whilst working on the oil tankers.

The "Memorial Park" is not only for the sailors, but also for anyone who direct or indirect was involved in defending our island and who lost their life.

Also those who went out to sea and never returned

will be remembered and honored.

A statue of a lady looking out at sea with a little child in her left arm and another small child standing at her right side, will also be placed in the Park, this in honor of those who went out to sea and never returned.

Plans are to build this Park in front of the old ESSO Club-building about a hundred meters north of the little fisherman's pier at

Roger's Beach in Seroe Colorado. In phase two, there will also be a museum with information and artifacts (replica's) about WWII.

The Memorial Park Foundation is a nonprofit organization.

Persons who have information, willing to fund or on a voluntary basis willing to help conduct the Foundation can contact: Roland W. Peterson, Tel. 5848129, email: allamanda@setarnet.aw or

John M. Peterson, Tel. 5821139, email: maurice@peterson.aw

Besides the fact that the park will also serve as a Recreational Park, where locals can spend time with their families, it will also serve as an attraction in memory of the ones that perished and in addition as a tourist attraction, something that is badly needed in San Nicolas.

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## The Netherlands “Obstructive” in Europe, Rutte “Impotent”

The Netherlands are seen as an increasingly obstructive European Union member state while Prime Minister Mark Rutte is “scared” of his own parliament, diplomats told the Dutch newspaper de Volkskrant for an article that was published on Saturday.

The officials all spoke with the paper anonymously but vehemently criticized Mark Rutte in particular for the “pernicious” role he is supposed to play in European Council summits.

Rutte doesn’t want a constitutional debate. He’s simply put a cross behind the words ‘solidarity’ and ‘sovereignty.’ Then you’re done talking in Brussels because that’s what it’s all about.

Whether it’s the Netherlands’ reluctance to finance European bailout funds, its opposition to raising the European Commission’s budget or allowing Bulgaria and Romania into the Schengen area customs union, other nations are frustrated with its intransigence and rising Euroskepticism.

Said one ambassador, “Rutte seems an impotent and



**Mark Rutte**

scared premier. Time and again, he bleats during EU summits, ‘I cannot go against the wishes of my parliament.’ Other leaders get the impression that he’s Wilders’ puppet.”

Until April of this year, Geert Wilders’ nationalist Freedom Party backed Rutte’s coalition of Christian democrats and liberals in parliament. Wilders is a staunch opponent of deeper European integration. Indeed, he advocates a Dutch exit from the European Union altogether in his election platform for September.

For all the criticism that European diplomats levied at them, it does not appear that

Dutch influence has suddenly waned due to either Wilders or Rutte. Previous Dutch governments were also opposed to Bulgaria and Romania entering the customs union until they tackled corruption and improved border controls. The European Commission has since come around to the Dutch position.

The executive similarly embraced a Dutch proposal to enhance the powers of economic and monetary affairs commissioner Olli Rehn to penalize eurozone countries that break the currency union’s debt and deficit rules—over strong French resistance.

Public sentiment in the Netherlands is turning against the European project. The two most Euroskeptic parties could gain up to a third of the seats in the new parliament, according to recent polls. Rutte’s own liberal party, which will likely remain in government, is struggling to convince right wing voters that it, too, is reluctant to bail out weaker euro states. European mandarins denouncing their party leader as “obstructive” probably won’t hurt his popularity at home.

## “Stop the European profiteers”

Dutch Freedom Party leader Geert Wilders has gathered 75,000 electronic signatures against Europe in less than three days. On Friday, his right-wing populist party launched a website opposing the high salaries of top European Union officials.

Wilders said he set up the website, “Stop the European Profiteers”, to launch a popular protest against the extremely high salaries of members of the European Parliament and the European Commission. The website’s slogan is: “not a cent more from the Netherlands to Brussels as long as the perverse profiteering continues”.



**Geert Wilders**

Yesterday morning, Geert tweeted that 75,000 people had signed his petition.

Brussels has reacted angrily. “Apparently, elections are about to be held in the

Netherlands,” said a spokesman for the European Commission. “Of course we pay high salaries. We’re not baking hamburgers here,” he added. In response, Wilders tweeted: “if they only baked hamburgers in Brussels, they would at least be doing something useful”.

A European Commissioner earns 27,000 euros a month. The Freedom Party says the starting salary of a European civil servant should be 4600 euros a month. The Commission spokesman added that it was difficult to recruit qualified Dutch civil servants. “Apparently,” he said, “we don’t pay enough”.

## Aruba honors its loyal visitors



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two friendly couple, at the Westin Beach Resort, as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba, as a token of appreciation for their more than 20 consecutive visit on our island. The honorees are Mr. Ron and Mrs. Ellisa Roberts and Mrs. Jane Martin and husband Mr. Joaquin Fernandez, who got married in Aruba. Mr. Ernest Giel, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, presented the couples with a handsome certificate, thanking them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination. Photo shows the honorees proudly showing off their certificates.



Also, recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a very nice family as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees are Mr. Jon and Mary Ellen Blauman and their two lovely daughters Sarah and Rachel Blauman who have been vacationing here for more than 10 consecutive years. The Blaumans are loyal member of the Aruba Marriott Ocean Vacation Club. A certificate was presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel together with Mrs. Gail Sahit, executive adm. assistant, and Mrs. Charmaine York, sales executive of the Marriott Ocean Vacation Club.

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## New foundation has 4.3 million for maintenance...

**Continued from page 2**

Another facility which is much used is the Complejo Deportivo Guillermo Prospero Trinidad. Here the work will be focused on repairing the roof which recently suffered damage. The field also needs maintenance. It was on this particular field that Aruba won the international championship against Suriname as well as the final tournament against Curacao.

While the Guillermo Trini-

dad is an essential field, there are others that are also very much used, such as the basketball field in San Nicolas, and the Esso Heights field. And, many of these fields have never been maintained. There are fields in Noord and others that are also much used and in need of maintenance. These will be given adequate attention henceforth according to Minister Visser.

## Report: Obama aide accepted fee from Iran-linked firm

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Senior White House advisor David Plouffe accepted a \$100,000 speaking fee from an affiliate of a company doing business with Iran, The Washington Post reported yesterday, sparking a political row.

The newspaper said the payment came from a subsidiary of MTN Group, a South Africa-based telecommunications company, which at that time was actively involved in business with a state-

owned Iranian telecommunications firm.

The funds covered two speeches Plouffe made in Nigeria in December 2010, about a month before he joined the White House staff.

"US authorities are now scrutinizing MTN Group because of its activities in Iran and Syria," The Post said.

Republicans pounced on the report and said it showed that President Barack Obama's promises to usher in a new eth-

## Bon Bini Festival is tonight



The weekly Bon Bini Festival takes place tonight at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminastraat. Bon Bini Festival is the only weekly folkloric event on the island. Come mingle with the locals and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture.

This week the festival will feature music by the traditional Aruba caha di orgel, folkloric music, dance performance and brass band.

During the festival there will be local food, sweets and traditional local arts and crafts on sale.

Arubus has regular busses from all hotels areas to Oranjestad Central Terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is \$2.30. The festival is from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Entrance fee is \$5.

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ical era in public life were shallow.

"Today's headlines reveal more ethically questionable conduct by a member of President Obama's inner circle, adding to a growing pattern of behavior," said RNC Chairman Reince Priebus.

Last week, Obama imposed new economic sanctions on Iran's oil export sector and on a Chinese and an Iraqi bank accused of doing business with Tehran.



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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### FBI: Sikh temple shooter had white supremacist ties

OAK CREEK (AFP) - US federal agents believe the slain suspect in a deadly attack on worshippers at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin had ties to white supremacist groups, a senior investigator said yesterday.

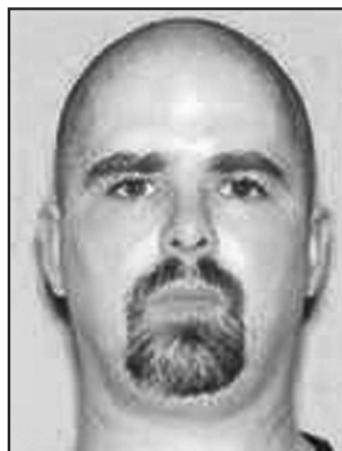
Special Agent Teresa Carlson, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Milwaukee field office, confirmed that 40-year-old suspect Wade Michael Page is the subject of a "domestic terrorism" probe following Sunday's massacre.

"We are looking at ties to white supremacist groups," Carlson told a news conference on the day after Sunday's shooting, in which six people attending a service at a suburban Sikh temple were shot dead.

"We did not have an active investigation on him before yesterday," she said. "No law enforcement agency had any reason to believe he was plotting anything."

"We are working on it as a possible domestic terrorism case," she added. "The definition of domestic terrorism is the use of violence for social or political gain. That's obviously what we are looking at."

Carlson said the FBI was always on the alert for possible copy cat attacks after such an incident, but noted that inves-



**Wade Michael Page**

tigators had no specific evidence to fear that any further violence is being planned.

She said that the firearm retrieved at the scene of the shooting was a 9mm handgun that had been purchased legally and that the shooter had had several magazines with which to reload the weapon.

Officers had searched his home, which was not booby-trapped. Investigators released a picture of the suspect and urged members of the public with any information on him to come forward.

"We don't have any reason to believe there was anyone else associated with this shooting," Carlson said. "We are continuing to work and if there is anybody we will identify them."



**FRANCE, SALIN-DE-GIRAUD :** Tourists push a 320 kilogram and two meter long turtle back into the water on August 6, 2012 on the beach of Salin-de-Giraud, southeastern France. The turtle was found bearing a badge from Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean. AFP PHOTO

### NGO: Aleppo rebels shelled, 91 killed across Syria

BEIRUT (AFP) - Syria's army shelled rebel-held areas of commercial capital Aleppo yesterday as violence killed 91 people across the country, including 57 civilians, 24 troops and 10 rebels, a watchdog said.

At least 17 civilians were killed in the city of Aleppo, while four were killed elsewhere in the same province, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Clashes broke out in the southwestern district of Salaheddin, where a rebel commander and another fighter were killed yesterday after three tanks moved in the night before, said the Britain-based group.

"Rebels and regime forces also clashed fiercely in the Shaar, Hanano and Sakhur districts," it said, adding that six civilians were killed in Sakhur alone.

Shaar and Sakhur later came under regime shelling, as did the neighbourhoods of Saif al-Dawla and Bab al-Hadid.

The army bombarded the Palace of Justice, as well as the districts of Marjeh and Shaar, killing five people. In Bab al-Nayrab, troops shot dead a civilian while he was helping wounded people, it added.

In Damascus, clashes broke out in the Sheikh Ibrahim area

of Rokn Eddin district, where four civilians were killed.

"Regime forces gave residents an ultimatum to leave the neighbourhood, which sparked fears that the area would be shelled," said Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman.

State television said that "security services seized a den of terrorist mercenaries in the neighbourhood," capturing a variety of weapons.

The security forces "clashed with the terrorists, killing a number of them and arresting others, while the rest threw down their arms and surrendered," the television said.

The army had said on Saturday that it had "cleansed all the districts of Damascus," after retaking the last rebel-held neighbourhood Tadamun in heavy fighting.

Meanwhile, Syria's prime minister Riad Hijab joined the anti-regime revolt and fled abroad, in what Washington and the opposition yesterday hailed as a major blow to President Bashar al-Assad.

In the highest-ranking defection of the nearly 17-month uprising, Hijab, a leading Sunni Muslim in Assad's minority Alawite-dominated regime, announced he was joining the rebels after slipping

across the border into Jordan on Sunday night.

He accused his former master of carrying out "genocide" against his own people but said four decades of Assad family rule were collapsing.

"I announce my defection today from the regime of killing and terror, and I join the ranks of the revolt," Hijab said in statement read by his spokesman Mohammed al-Otri on Al-Jazeera news channel from Amman.

"Syria is passing through the most difficult war crimes, genocide, and barbaric killings and massacres against unarmed citizens," he said.

Hijab's home province of Deir Ezzor in the northeast has been one of the key battlefields of the conflict and seen a mounting death toll from operations by the army.

The spokesman said Hijab would leave for Qatar within days, following the example of other high-profile defectors such as Syria's ambassador to Iraq, Nawaf Fares, who switched sides last month.

The latest defection shows Assad has lost control of the country and that his people believe his days are numbered, a US official in Washington told AFP.

### No change to Obama gun control stance after shooting

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The shooting at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin was "horrific" the White House said yesterday, but the massacre will not, on its own, prompt a fresh administration drive for new gun control measures.

White House spokesman Jay Carney reiterated President Barack Obama's position that

### US mosque burns to ground in suspected arson

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A mosque burned to the ground in the midwestern United States yesterday, in what worshippers suspect was a hate attack, less than a day after a deadly shooting at a Sikh temple.

Firefighters and police were called to a blaze at the Islamic Center in Joplin, Missouri -- where around 125 members of the local Muslim community pray, according to the FBI's Kansas City office.

"The building was completely destroyed," said Sharon Rhine, a spokeswoman for the local Jasper County Sheriff's office. No one was wounded in

steps must be taken to ensure those not legally entitled to weapons do not get them, while safeguarding the constitutional right to bear arms.

"The president has made his views plain on this, which is that he is for common sense measures that protect ... very important Second Amendment rights that American citizens

### the incident.

"No-one was apprehended. They don't want to call it a hate crime without information or knowledge of having someone to charge," Rhine said.

Monday's blaze followed an attack on July 4, when an unidentified suspect threw a petrol bomb onto the roof of the same mosque, causing minor damage.

The mosque's surveillance cameras captured an image of the assailant's face, and the FBI offered a \$15,000 reward for information related to the July incident, but no one has been apprehended.

have but to make it harder and harder for those who should not have weapons under existing law from obtaining them," Carney said.

Carney faulted Congress for not doing enough to make sure weapons could not be obtained legally, and said that Obama would support any new ban on assault weapons and would evaluate any other gun control legislation that emerged.

"There's no question that there has been a reluctance to act in Congress on these issues," Carney said. "Whether that will continue to be the case in the future is anyone's prediction."

Building on Obama's condemnation of the shooting in a written statement on Sunday, Carney described the attack on the Sikh temple, in which a gunman killed six people before being killed himself, as "horrific and appalling."

But as terrible as the attack was, Carney said that violence took place on America's streets every day, and addressing it required an approach that encompassed issues beyond gun control.

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## Long-running Frankfurt 'Occupy' camp cleared

FRANKFURT (AFP) - A handful of anti-capitalism protesters were evicted yesterday from the makeshift village of tents at the foot of the European Central Bank where they have held vigil for the past 10 months.

Scores of police officers surrounded the Occupy Frankfurt camp in a small area of park in front of the ECB's

headquarters after a court rejected the activists' last-minute attempt to avert eviction.

The camp, taking its inspiration from the Occupy Wall Street movement in New York, had been set up in mid-October, making it the longest continuous protest of its kind in Europe.

Nevertheless, the city authorities had given protesters

until the end of July to leave, arguing the camp had become a health hazard as it was infested with rats.

They also argued that most of the activists had long quit the camp, which had been taken over by homeless people and drug users instead and therefore had little to do with the original aim of the protests.

The court largely concurred with the authorities' arguments, but gave the activists two weeks to appeal the ruling.

Police said the camp's 60 or so inhabitants -- who included an estimated 20 activists -- were asked to leave voluntarily, otherwise they would be removed by force.

However, surrounded by

## Death toll from Philippine floods rises to 51

MANILA (AFP) - The death toll from over a week of floods in the Philippines rose to 51 as rain continued to pour, causing dams to overflow and forcing more people to flee their homes, officials said yesterday.

The number of deaths, previously at 45, rose as more bodies of missing people turned up, with one man drowning early yesterday, said civil defence chief Benito Ramos.

Six people remain missing, including children who went swimming despite the bad weather that began last week as Typhoon Saola approached the country, he added.

Although the Philippines escaped a direct hit, it worsened monsoon rains which continued even after Saola moved north, away from the Philippines.

La Mesa Dam, the main reservoir of Metro Manila, which has a population of 15 million, began to overflow yesterday, forcing the evacuation of over 1,000 residents living beside nearby waterways, the Metro Manila flood control office said.

However, more people still remain in these areas, many of them squatters who built shanties on riverbanks, said Edna Conda, duty officer at the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

In the residential suburb of Quezon City, some areas reported floodwaters reaching the second floor of buildings, forcing various government agencies to rush rubber boats to the area, Conda said.

Other parts of the capital suffered knee- to waist-deep floods snarling traffic for hours, authorities said.

Even before the dam overflowed the government had more than 9,000 people huddled in makeshift evacuation centres, such as schools and basketball courts.

crowds of onlookers and media, the clearing of the camp proceeded mostly peacefully, aside from one protester who shouted "Dictatorship! Police state!", according to an AFP reporter at the scene.

Some of the protesters helped the police clear the tents and load the refuse onto lorries, the AFP reporter said.

## Health & Living

# Threats of 'unprecedented gravity' to US Church: Vatican

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - The Vatican Monday warned of threats of "unprecedented gravity" to the Catholic Church in the United States, in the latest such censure in the lead-up to the US presidential elections.

Pope Benedict XVI has told American bishops repeatedly over the last eight months that the compulsory provision for contraception in employees' health insurance included in President Barack Obama's health-care plan threatens religious freedom.

Secretary of State Tarcisio Bertone said in a message to the US-based Knights of Columbus, in an apparent bid to get the world's largest Catholic fraternal group to keep the Church's key issues at the forefront of the election scene.

Cardinal Bertone spoke of the "urgent need" to counter "a reductive secularism which would delegitimize the

Church's participation in public debate about the issues which are determining the future of American society."

He called on the influential Knights to continue working "tirelessly to help the Catholic community recognize and respond to the unprecedented gravity of these new threats to the Church's liberty and public moral witness."

US Catholic leaders are split between an ultra-conservative wing, which has slammed Obama's health reforms, and others who have taken more liberal stances on homosexuality and other issues.

The Vatican has slammed the rebels repeatedly in recent months. The pope has been receiving groups of US bishops for regular work sessions, and has insisted that they stand firm against issues such as abortion and euthanasia.

The Holy See has also become embroiled in a row with a US association of Catholic

clergy women, which it has criticised as having feminist and liberal stances on contraception, homosexuality and female priests.

In June, the Vatican slammed a "sexual morality" book by an American nun which justifies homosexuality, divorce and masturbation.

Attempts to force wayward US Catholics back into line have increased in the run up to the presidential elections in November.

The Knights organisation, which boasts 1.8 million members worldwide, has publicly opposed Obama's health care package and is a key ally in the Church's move to form a united Catholic front and tackle secularism in US politics.

Bertone urged US Catholics to remember "the great biblical ideals of freedom and justice which shaped the founding of the US,".

## Important Information of: Dengue fever

Dengue (DENG-gay) fever is a disease — ranging from mild to severe — caused by four related viruses spread by a particular species of mosquito. No specific treatment for dengue fever exists, and most people recover. But if you have a severe form of the disease, you need hospital care.

Millions of cases of dengue infection occur worldwide each year. Most often, dengue fever occurs in urban areas of tropical and subtropical regions.

*Signs and symptoms of dengue fever vary, depending on the form and severity of the disease.*

### Dengue fever

With the mild form of the disease, you may experience some or all of these signs and symptoms:

\*High fever, up to 105 F (40.6 C)

\*A rash over most of your body, which may subside after a couple of days and then reappear

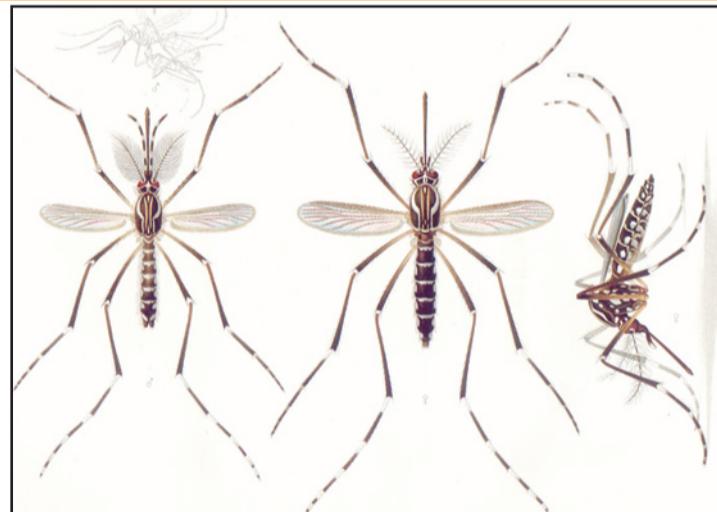
\*Severe headache, backache or both

\*Pain behind your eyes

\*Severe joint and muscle pain

\*Nausea and vomiting

\*Sign and symptoms usually begin about four to seven days after being bitten by a mosquito carrying a dengue virus. Mild dengue fever rarely



The Aedes aegypti mosquito

causes death, and your symptoms will usually subside within a week after starting.

### Dengue hemorrhagic fever

More-severe forms of the disease usually begin the same way as the mild form (dengue fever) then become worse after several days.

— a more severe form of the disease than initial dengue fever — can cause signs and symptoms of dengue fever plus:

\*Significant damage to your blood and lymph vessels

\*A decrease in the number of blood cells that help your blood clot (platelets)

\*Bleeding from the nose and mouth

\*Bleeding under the skin, which gives the appearance of bruising

### \*Death

### Dengue shock syndrome

— the most severe form of the disease — may cause signs and symptoms of mild dengue fever plus:

\*Severe abdominal pain

\*Frequent vomiting

\*Disorientation

\*Fluid (plasma) leakage from blood vessels

\*Heavy bleeding

\*A sudden drop in blood pressure (shock)

### \*Death

Severe signs and symptoms may appear after your fever has improved. In a small number of cases, people with a severe form of the disease die of it. Modern supportive hospital care decreases this risk.

### When to see a doctor

If you have any signs or



### Lunch Buffet

Saturday - Sunday

12:00 - 3 p.m.

### Dinner

Monday - Sunday

6:00 - 11:00 p.m.

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**MANILA (AFP)** - A Catholic nun wearing an anti-Reproductive Health (RH) ribbon (top R) holds a chain of rosary beads (C) as she joins some 7000 protesters during an anti RH bill rally at a Catholic shrine in Manila on August 4, 2012. Philippine nuns and priests led thousands of Catholics in a protest in Manila against a proposed law that would provide free contraceptives in a bid to curb population growth



greater risk of developing dengue fever or a more severe form of the disease include:

\*Living or traveling in tropical areas. Dengue virus transmission occurs year-round, although the risk is highest during a recognized dengue fever outbreak.

\*Prior infection with a dengue fever virus. Previous infection with a dengue fever virus increases your risk of a more severe form of the disease. This is especially true for children.

### Complications

Most people with dengue fever recover within five to 14 days. Some, particularly adults, may feel listless, tired and even depressed for several weeks to months after being infected.

If severe, dengue fever can lead to dengue hemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome, those who survive may experience liver, blood vessel and brain damage, as well as seizures.



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**Sci-Tech****Australian police chief attacks violent video games**

SYDNEY - (AFP) - One of Australia's top police officers on Monday criticised violent video games that glorify rape and murder, after a spate of high-profile knifings by young people.

Andrew Scipione, the police commissioner for the state of New South Wales, said the violence adolescents were exposed to via films and console games only needed to affect a small minority of disturbed people.

"How can it not affect you if you're a young adolescent growing up in an era where to be violent is almost praiseworthy, where you engage in virtual crime on a daily basis," he told Sydney's Daily Telegraph.

"You get rewarded for killing people, raping women, stealing money from prostitutes, driving cars crashing and killing people."

The police commissioner said he was concerned that brutal games may encourage



PADADENA (AFP) - NASA opened a new chapter in the history of interplanetary exploration on Monday when its \$2.5 billion nuclear-powered robot Curiosity beamed back pictures from the surface of Mars. The one-ton mobile lab is the largest rover ever sent to Mars, and its high-speed landing was the most daring to date, using a rocket-powered sky crane to lower the six-wheeled vehicle gently to the Red Planet's surface. "Touchdown confirmed," said a member of mission control at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as scientists hugged each other and the room erupted in cheers late Sunday. "We are wheels down on Mars. Oh, my God." A dusty image of Curiosity's wheel, taken from a camera on the vehicle, confirmed the arrival of the car-sized rover and its sophisticated toolkit designed to hunt for signs that life once existed there. The nuclear-powered rover is now set for a two-year mission to explore the Red Planet, including a long climb up a mountain to analyze sediment layers that are up to a billion years old.

some people to re-enact the screen violence.

"That's not going to affect the vast majority but it's only got to affect one or two and what have you got?" he said.

"You've got some potentially really disturbed young person out there who's got access to weapons like knives or is good with the fist, can go out there and almost live that life now in the streets of modern Australia."

Scipione's comments came after three teenagers were stabbed in separate attacks in western Sydney in one week last month, which followed a 22-year-old apprentice chef being fatally knifed on July 8.

"The thing that's concerning me is the prevalence of people who are at this stage not just prepared to carry a knife, but prepared to use it," the police commissioner said. "That has increased significantly."

Scipione has previously pointed the finger at Australia's love affair with alcohol and said it was a serious concern that young people were able to get drunk despite the legal drinking age being 18.

"They go and get plastered and then they want to fight the world," he said.

### **Easy Ways to Go Greener at Home and Work place.**

- 1-Use smart plugs to shut off power to appliances and unplug chargers and other stand-alone appliances.
- 2 - Use power-saving settings on your computer. Set them to power down after 2-3 minutes of inactivity.
- 3-Flat-screen monitors or laptops are far more energy-efficient than CRTs.
- 4-Keep your freezer full for optimal power use.
- 5-Turn off the tap. While brushing, while shaving, while washing dishes.
- 6-Install aerators on your faucets to use less water.
- 7-Fix leaky faucets and toilets.
- 8-Replace older toilets with newer, low-flow models.
- 9-Replace traditional exit signs with LED signs.
- 10-Recycle your electronics and computer equipment.



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**Main Course:**

- Brocheta mixta de pollo y carne
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- Grouper al ajillo

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Arroz blanco / papas fritas

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TOKYO (AFP) : This photo taken on July 29 shows an employee for Japan's auto giant Honda Motor demonstrating a walking-assist-device designed for the elderly and people with weak leg muscles, at a press preview at the company's headquarters in Tokyo. The walking-assist-device is equipped with angle sensors and two actuators on the lightweight walking aid machine, weighing 2.4 kgs. Honda and the National Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology (NCGG) in Aichi prefecture, central Japan announced on July 29 that they would have a large scale experimental test for elderly people at the research institute.



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## COMICS

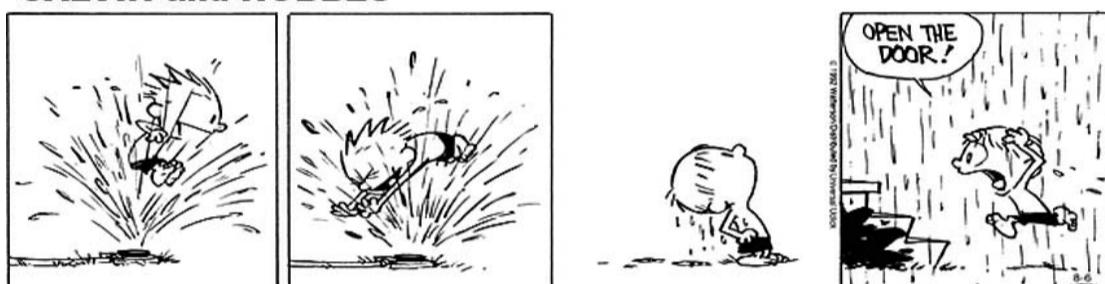
## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBES



## CROSSWORD



## CROSSWORD

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## ACROSS

- "Get a \_\_\_" (1958 hit)
- Home of the Cyclones
- Participate in a conspiracy
- Holiday brink
- Cuckoo's lack
- Leaf collector
- Sri Lanka export
- "Martha My \_\_\_" (Beatles)
- Financier Boesky
- "Between the Buttons" cut
- Hinny
- Fasten
- Object of adoration
- "\_\_\_ your age!"
- Shoemaker's tool
- Loc. of an Oahu promontory
- Picnic nuisance
- "Spy vs. Spy" magazine
- "\_\_\_ Morning Heartache"
- Corpulent
- "\_\_\_ Got the Music in Me" (1974 hit)
- Gem of the North Atlantic
- Claim
- Legal holding



## DOWN

- Martial artist Li of "Black Mask"
- and out
- Melanie's son in "GWTW"
- Griffith and others
- Track gatherings
- Jacob's twin
- Hoary
- Goneril's sire
- "Dies \_\_\_"
- Take advantage of
- Bohemian
- Wriggly fish
- "The Joy Luck Club" author
- Seventhinning action
- Feline group
- Volcanic fluid
- "Fine!"
- Wallet item
- Unguent
- Position
- Snake River's st.
- Hullabaloo
- Before meal or cake
- Calculate
- Excitement
- "What person?"
- Canning piece
- Epps of "Scream 2"
- Singer Merchant
- Grows gray
- Charon's conveyance
- Without a flaw
- Swings for Tarzan
- Any time at all
- Beef, e.g.
- Former Venetian coins
- Ill-mannered boor
- Novelist Morante
- Before king abbr.

## JEWEL BOX

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Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

## CAS MARIE

Alzheimer's Day  
Care Center  
Tel: 5696910

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Horacio Oduber Hospital  
Tel. 5274000EMERGENCY  
Telephone 911  
POLICE HDQS  
Telephone 100TAXI  
C.V. TAS  
587-1998, 587-5900  
In Oranjestad:  
Tel. 582-2116, 582-1604  
582-5447  
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Tel. 584-5160, 584-6602  
professional taxi services  
Tel. 588-0035**AI Anon Meetings**  
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## SOLUTION

9	1	3	4	6	7	2	5	8
4	8	5	2	1	3	6	9	7
7	9	2	5	6	8	1	3	4
1	5	7	8	3	9	4	2	6
8	2	4	6	5	1	9	7	3
3	6	9	1	7	2	4	8	1
5	4	7	2	4	8	1	5	6
9	7	8	3	6	3	8	2	1
2	3	6	1	8	5	7	4	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Bath and bedroom and more.**2 Floor**Ladies, girls  
and baby wear**4 Floor**Office, Luggages and  
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## Finance

# Saab, Spyker file \$3bn claim against GM

Dutch carmaker Spyker said yesterday that it has filed a three-billion-dollar (2.4-billion-euro) claim in a US court against General Motors, whose actions it said led directly to Swedish Saab's bankruptcy last year.

"The lawsuit seeks redress for the unlawful actions GM took to avoid competition with Saab Automobile in the Chinese market," Saab's owner Spyker said in a statement issued in Zeewolde in the Netherlands.

The Swedish carmaker filed for bankruptcy in December after attempts to raise funds in China were thwarted by GM, which had previously owned Saab and refused a transfer of patents needed for the Chinese deal to go through.

"GM's actions had the direct and intended objective of driving Saab Automobile into bankruptcy, a result of GM's tortiously interfering with a transaction... to restructure and remain a solvent growing concern," Spyker said in the state-

ment.

Detroit-based GM said in an email to AFP its lawyers "would review the lawsuit and respond in due course."

Spyker said it would pay for Saab's legal costs in the case filed in Michigan's Eastern District Court, in return for a "very substantial share of Saab Automobile's award when the proceedings are successful."

Chinese carmaker Youngman had long been interested in buying Saab and tried to snap it up before it declared bankruptcy -- but its efforts were stymied by Saab's former owner GM, which balked at transferring the necessary technology licences.

"GM took all the steps to prevent us to make a deal with Youngman," Spyker's chief executive Victor Muller said during a telephone conference call, adding "it was evident that General Motors has deliberately pushed Saab over the cliff."

Separately GM said on Sunday that its joint ventures

in China sold a record 199,503 vehicles in July, a 15.1 percent increase from last year's previous high for a single month.

Muller added the \$3 billion claimed in compensation represented the value Saab would have had, had the deal with Youngman go through.

He said that if the lawsuit was successful, "90 percent of its proceeds would go to Spyker."

The Dutch company estimated legal costs at "between one to two million euros."

"Any money that goes into Saab will be considered Saab's assets and might be distributed to the company's creditors," Muller added.

## \$400 mn rescue for broker Knight after costly glitch

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Wall Street brokers and investors came to the rescue of key broker Knight Capital Group with a \$400 injection to counter losses on a computer trading error, Knight announced yesterday.

Knight said Jefferies Group, Blackstone, Stifel Financial Corp., TD Ameritrade and others would get preferred shares convertible to common stock for their emergency injection, which would help the company survive huge losses on the glitch.

The mishap, which caused the firm to unintentionally buy and sell millions of shares in over 100 companies, rattled the New York Stock Exchange at the opening of trade on Wednesday.

Knight said Thursday that unwinding the trades cost the firm \$440 million and had "severely impacted" its capital base, forcing it to seek fresh

## NY: Standard Chartered hid huge Iran trade

NEW YORK (AFP) - Standard Chartered Bank was accused yesterday by New York state regulators of hiding \$250 billion in allegedly illegal transactions with Iran for almost a decade.

The regulators accused the London-based global bank of "systematic misconduct" which might have allowed terrorists and criminals to gain access to the country's banking system.

New York's Department of Financial Services threatened Standard Chartered with fines and possible suspension of its license to operate in the state, the hub of the US financial industry, if it could not explain the transactions which allegedly violated US sanctions on Iran.

The bank was ordered to appear before the department on August 15 "to explain these apparent violations of law and to demonstrate why SCB's license to operate in the State of New York should not be revoked."

"For almost ten years, SCB schemed with the Government of Iran and hid from regulators roughly 60,000 secret transactions, involving at least \$250 billion, and reaping SCB hundreds of millions of dollars in fees."

The transactions involved major state-owned Iranian banks including the country's central bank.

The regulator said Standard Chartered falsified records and obstructed oversight "in its evident zeal to make hundreds of millions of dollars at almost any cost."

The transactions "left the US financial system vulnerable to terrorists, weapons dealers, drug kingpins and corrupt regimes, and deprived law enforcement investigators of crucial information used to track all manner of criminal activity," it said.

The department said its investigation into the bank's also included evidence of possible illegal transactions with Libya, Myanmar and Sudan while those countries were under US sanctions.

## MONDAY'S Crossword Answer

DOC	REY	AJAR
AVA	AGES	NERO
HARD	CASH	GAIT
REE	AMENDS	
MAYER	IDOL	
ODOR	NOR	CAN
TAU	DRAWN	ALE
EMT	REN	CREE
RUDE	OARED	
CINEMA	ATRY	
IDES	CASHDOWN	
TEST	TREE	FOE
EATS	TAR	FEW

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
08/06/2012	U.S.A. USD	<b>1.77</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>1.80</b>
Dutch Antilles	ANG	<b>98.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.20</b>
Canada	CAD	<b>1.76</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>1.80</b>
Britain	GBP	<b>2.71</b>	<b>2.76</b>	<b>2.82</b>
Switzerland	CHF	<b>183.33</b>	<b>184.05</b>	<b>184.85</b>
Netherlands	EUR	<b>218.48</b>	<b>220.48</b>	<b>222.69</b>
Sweden	SEK	<b>25.45</b>	<b>26.17</b>	<b>26.97</b>
Denmark	DKK	<b>28.65</b>	<b>29.37</b>	<b>30.17</b>
Norway	NOK	<b>28.85</b>	<b>29.57</b>	<b>30.37</b>
Japan	JPY	<b>225.26</b>	<b>227.32</b>	<b>229.60</b>
(per 10,000)				
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## Pope completes third volume of book on Jesus

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Benedict XVI has "in recent days" completed the third volume of his trilogy "Jesus of Nazareth", devoted this time to the childhood of Christ, the Vatican announced.

"Translation into various languages, directly from the original in German, has

begun," the Holy See said in a statement. The aim is to publish the book simultaneously in several languages, but the Vatican gave no release date for "this important and awaited text".

The second tome of the trilogy, which deals with the end of Jesus's life from the entry

into Jerusalem to the resurrection, was published in March 2011 in seven languages and 1.2 million copies.

The first volume (2007) covered the period between Jesus's baptism in the River Jordan and his transfiguration.

The books are signed Joseph Ratzinger-Benedict XVI because the pope began writing his life of Jesus while he was still a cardinal and prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, whose task is to watch over adherence to Roman Catholic dogma.



KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - A gay Malaysian pastor said Monday he had held a wedding banquet with his American partner despite earlier outrage by conservatives in the Muslim-majority country opposed to their union. Ngeo Boon Lin, who has authored a number of books on gay and other issues under the name Ouyang Wen Feng, said he held the private, traditional Chinese wedding celebration at a restaurant in the capital Kuala Lumpur on Saturday. Ngeo married his partner, African-American Broadway musical producer Phineas Newborn III, last year in New York, where they live. That came shortly after same-sex marriages were legalised there. Homosexuality remains a largely taboo subject in Malaysia -- sodomy is punishable by 20 years in prison -- and Ngeo came under attack from Islamic and Christian figures alike when he first announced his wedding plans. Ngeo said it was important for him to hold the banquet in Malaysia to show that gays should not be cowed.



## Batman reigns at North American box offices

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The Batman film "The Dark Knight Rises" topped the North American box office for a third consecutive week despite last month's mass shooting at a screening, industry estimates showed Sunday.

The final installment in the Batman trilogy finished well above its competitors, bringing in \$36.4 million, according to movie tracker Exhibitor Relations.

Twelve people were killed and 58 wounded when a gunman sprayed bullets into a midnight premiere of the film in Aurora, Colorado, on July 20.

Second place, with \$26 million in its debut weekend, went to science fiction action remake "Total Recall" starring Colin Farrell alongside Kate Beckinsale and Jessica Biel.

Coming in third was teen comedy "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days," which opened with \$14.7 million in box office receipts. Next came

the fourth installment of a popular animated series, "Ice Age: Continental Drift" -- featuring voices from an all-star cast including Jennifer Lopez and Nicki Minaj -- at \$8.4 million.

Fifth place went to "The Watch" starring Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn as part of a suburban neighborhood watch team fighting off an alien invasion. The film brought in \$6.5 million.

The sixth slot with \$5.5 million went to Ted, a comedy directed by "Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane in which Mark Wahlberg's childhood toy comes to life. It was followed by "Step Up: Revolution" (\$5.3 million), "The Amazing Spider-Man" (\$4.3 million) and Pixar studio's 3-D animated fairytale "Brave" (\$2.9 million).

Rounding out the top 10 was "Magic Mike," starring Channing Tatum and Matthew McConaughey as male strippers, with \$1.4 million.

## 50th anniversary of the death of Marilyn Monroe



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Some 300 Marilyn Monroe fans gathered Sunday at the Los Angeles cemetery where she is buried, commemorating the iconic sex symbol on the 50th anniversary of her death. Culminating a week of celebrations organized by various fan clubs, the ceremony was held at her final resting place in Westwood Village Memorial Park, a small patch of greenery between a parking lot and a residential part of the city. Fans as well as friends and relatives paid homage to the actress, who died on August 5, 1962, from a barbiturate overdose at her home in the upscale Brentwood neighborhood. The hall where the tribute was held was too small to accommodate everyone, and so a white tent was erected among the trees where others could watch the ceremony via video transmission. Monroe's grave was covered with flowers, photos of the icon, as well as with messages and letters.

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Divi Resorts has 5 resorts in Aruba, in addition to The Links at Divi Aruba golf course, and the Alhambra Casino. For years we've offered high quality all inclusive and timeshare vacations; and over 40,000 members actively participate in the Divi Vacation Ownership Program.

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The Residences are luxury full ownership condominiums nestled within the lush greens of The Links at Divi Aruba golf course.

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- Divi managed rental program
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# 5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Wallessever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5

for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$3.99, (\$4.49 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous



## Summer Olympics: July 27 - August 12



### Phelps calls Ye speculation 'sad'



LONDON (AFP) - American swimming great Michael Phelps Monday defended Chinese prodigy Ye Shiwen and said it was "sad" that her Olympic performances had been greeted with scepticism.

Phelps, who retired in London with a record haul of 22 medals, including 18 gold, said 16-year-old Ye had simply worked hard to achieve her two Olympic titles, one set in world-record time.

"It's kind of sad that people have a great swim and that's the first thing they say," Phelps said in an interview with CNN.

"People who work hard -- it shows. There are people who just jump to that conclusion sometimes, and it's not right."

Ye's 400m individual medley world record, whose final lap was quicker than US winner Ryan Lochte in the men's final, was described as "impossible" by American coach John Leonard, and also questioned by British media.

Ye flatly denied doping, and her team-mate Sun Yang was also angered by the speculation.

"It is all down to training and hard work that we have results," he said. "Chinese are not weaker than those in other countries."

Phelps added that he had been pleased to see Ye swim. "Being able to watch her was pretty amazing," he said.

LONDON (AFP) - An Olympic water ballet of unheralded mermaids with glittery costumes, waterproof makeup and locked-on smiles began as Russia's synchronised swim dynasty took aim at a fifth gold medal in a row.

Moving in synchronicity to each other and the music, the duos blend flair, strength, poise, beauty and breath-holding in epic fashion, the water nymphs' goal to keep broad smiles through it all as they breathe through their teeth.

Defending Olympic champions Natalia Ishchenko and Svetlana Romashina of Russia led after the duets technical routine with 98.20 points, bathing beauties with Bolshoi-worthy moves even in the deep end of the pool.

"We train 10 hours a day," Ishchenko said. "To train more than 10 hours a day is physically impossible. We have the best coaches and specialists in the world and thank God they still live in Russia.



Spain's Andrea Fuentes Fache and Ona Carbonell Ballester

"It's also about talent. It's about soul. The Russians are very good at ballet and gymnastics because the Russian soul is about living the music and living the dance."

Their routine, including

## Water ballet on show with help of Michael Jackson



Defending Olympic champions Natalia Ishchenko and Svetlana Romashina of Russia

tricky legwork moves at the start, was performed to Michael Jackson's "They Don't Care About Us."

"When we picked the tune we were so worried that after all the training we would be sick of it, but we still love it," Romashina said.

Other swimmers performed to a range of tunes from Aretha Franklin's "Think" to Hans Zimmer's "Sherlock Holmes" and "Madagascar" movie themes and Ravel's "Bolero" for the Egyptian duo of Shaza Abdelaahman and Dalia Elgebaly.

The Russians are the envy of their rivals, their duos having not dropped a major global competition in 11 years.

"The Russians are amazing. Even those who compete against them are in awe," said US rival Mary Killman.

"They are almost perfect," Russian-American Mariya Koroleva said. "Their duet looks like one person in two."

Underwater speakers help them keep in time to the music and the fish gelatin once used to slick hair back has been replaced by a less-odorous synthetic.

chlorine in the pool."

Synchro swimmers wear nose clips to keep from getting water up their nostrils while swimming underwater for so long it takes your breath away just to watch.

"We try not to count how long we are underwater for because otherwise we would faint," said Spain's Andrea Fuentes Fache.

The Spanish duo is third on 96.00 and mystified by the Russians as well.

"They are machines," she said. "They are really cool and I want to congratulate them because I don't understand how they can be so good."



Xuechen Huang and Ou Liu of China

Pool chlorine left Isabel Delgado Plancarte's eyes red, but the Mexican who looks forward to howling like a wolf in the free routine is not worried.



Isabel Delgado Plancarte and Nuria Diosdado Garcia of Mexico

Russia also will be tested by second-place China ahead of today's final, the Chinese pair of Liu Ou and Huang Xuechen in second on 96.10 and ready to unleash "The

"My eyes do not hurt much because this routine is quite short," she said. "Later on they will be fine. I'm used to the Dragon", their new free routine. "Our advantage is technique. We are very strong technically," Liu said.

# Italy walk champion Schwazer admits doping

ROME (AFP) - Italy's reigning 50km walk champion Alex Schwazer admitted doping on Monday and said his career was over after he was withdrawn from the Olympics for failing a drugs test, leaving supporters reeling.

"My career is over. I made a mistake," Schwazer told ANSA news agency by telephone. "I wanted to be stronger for this Olympics, I was wrong."

Schwazer, 27, tested positive for the banned blood booster EPO during a test conducted by the World Anti-Doping

Agency (WADA) at a training camp in Oberstdorf, Germany, a source with knowledge of the case told AFP.

CONI head Giovanni Petracci told Italy's state-owned Rai television that Schwazer's disqualification from the games was a bitter blow, but stressed that the priority lay with ensuring sport is clean rather than winning medals.

"The decision, however, is clear. We cannot accept any compromises. Fewer medals but greater cleanliness," he added.

Schwazer was a bronze medallist at the 2005 and 2007 World Championships before striking gold at Beijing four years ago.

He had been one of Italy's best medal hopes in London after a solid start to the season which saw him clock the fourth best time of his career.

"Schwazer didn't need to drug himself to win in London, he had always trained very hard. It's a dark day for athletics and Italian sport," said Franco Arese, head of Italy's athletics governing body (FIDAL).



LONDON (AFP) : Cuba's Mijain Lopez Nunez won gold for Cuba in the men's 120 kg Greco-Roman wrestling on Monday, beating Estonia's Heiki Nabi on points in the final. Lopez Nunez won 3-0 as Nabi claimed Estonia's first medal in London with silver. World champion Riza Kayaalp of Turkey beat Lopez Nunez to the world title last year but was forced to settle for bronze, beating Guram Pherselidze of Georgia 3-0.



LONDON (AFP) - Teenager Kirani James powered to gold in the men's 400m on Monday to win Grenada's first Olympic medal of any colour and become the first non-American winner of the event since 1980. James, 19, the reigning world champion, dominated the field, winning in 43.94sec. Luguelin Santos, also 19, of the Dominican Republic, took silver in 44.46sec while Trinidad and Tobago's Lalonde Gordon took bronze. The Grenadan made his move in the final 150m, coming off the bend with a clear lead and never looked like being caught. His time was a new national record for the Caribbean island nation and he also became the first non-US athlete to dip under 44 seconds for the one-lap race. The United States has been utterly dominant in the race since Victor Markin, representing the former Soviet Union, won the event in the boycott-blighted 1980 Moscow Olympics, where the US did not compete. Last year James became the second youngest world gold medallist when he out-dipped LaShawn Merritt of the United States. Merritt, the defending Olympic champion, pulled up in his heat in London on Saturday and limped off the track. James set world age-group records for the 400m when he was 13, 14 and 15, winning double 200-400m golds at the 2009 world youth championships, before being crowned world junior champion in the 400m a year later. While Usain Bolt ran 45.35sec for the 400m as a 16-year-old, James timed 45.24 at the same age. The world record holder in the event remains US great Michael Johnson, who timed 43.18sec in 1999, but many observers believe James has the potential to threaten that time.

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## **Emotional Sanchez regains Olympic hurdles title**



LONDON (AFP) - Felix Sanchez of the Dominican Republic stormed to victory in the men's 400m hurdles Olympic title yesterday and then paid an emotional tribute to his late grandmother.

Sanchez won in a time of 47.63sec, taking a title he first collected at the 2004 Athens Games, and then broke down in tears during the medal ceremony.

The 34-year-old, whose time was the same as he ran in Athens, beat home American Michael Tinsley, who ran a personal best of 47.91sec, while the pre-race favourite Javier Culson of Puerto Rico had to settle for bronze in 48.10sec.

Great Britain's world champion Dai Greene finished fourth and two-time Olympic champion Angelo Taylor finished fifth in a high-quality race.

Sanchez, who sports a tattoo of 'Superman' on his shoulder and had 'Abuela' -- Spanish for grandmother -- inscribed on a shoe, led from the off with Taylor and Culson chasing him down.

Sanchez pulled away to take a surprisingly easy gold, while Tinsley passed the tiring Culson and Taylor - who had been bidding to become the first athlete to win three Olympic golds in the event - to take second.

Sanchez fell to his knees after crossing the line and plucked a photograph of his grandmother, whose death Sanchez learned of on the day of the 2008 Olympic heats, from his vest.

Culson also collapsed to the track - but in disappointment, despite it being his country's first ever Olympic medal outside of boxing.

## **Brazil rally drops Spain to third seed**



**Spanish forward Pau Gasol (L) vies with Brazilian guard Anderson Varejao**

LONDON (AFP) - NBA standout Leandro Barbosa scored 23 points to lead a second-half rally that lifted Brazil over Spain 88-82 yesterday and into a second seed spot in the Olympic men's basketball medal playoffs.

Brazil finished level with Russia in Group B at 4-1 but lost the top seed by having lost their head-to-head matchup. Spain finished 3-2, level with Australia but taking the tie-breaker thanks to a head-to-head win.

Exact quarter-final matchups will not be known until after the US NBA Dream Team plays Argentina later in the final preliminary game in Group A.

Brazil-Spain had overtones of a badminton scandal that

saw eight women banished for not trying to win in order to avoid an early knockout-round match against a favoured duo that had been upset in preliminaries.

In this case, the teams were in a position where the Spain-Brazil winner would likely be set for a potential semi-final meeting with the US NBA Dream Team while the loser would not play the Americans until a possible title game.

Before the game, players on both teams dismissed the notion they would give anything less than their best.

But Brazil's Nene Hilario, a centre for the NBA Washington Wizards who was among the Olympic rebound and blocked shot leaders, did not play against Spain, which had

struggled with inconsistent play throughout the tournament.

The Spaniards led 44-38 at half-time and NBA big man Marc Gasol scored seven points in a 14-9 run midway into the third period to give Spain a 62-51 edge on the way to a 66-57 advantage entering the fourth quarter.

Back-to-back 3-pointers by Marquinhos Veira Sousa pulled Brazil within 67-63 just 58 seconds into the final period.

Pau Gasol hit a free throw to put Spain ahead 73-67 but Barbosa hit two free throws and back-to-back 3-pointers to give Brazil the lead for the first time at 75-73 with 4:17 remaining.

Pau Gasol answered with a dunk but Barbosa sank two free throws to put Brazil back on top and Larry Taylor banked in a layup for a 79-75 Brazil edge with 3:22 to play.

Barbosa made a fast break layup and Anderson Varejao added a layup for an 84-76 lead with 96 seconds to play, ending a 12-3 Brazil run.

Marc Gasol hit three late free throws to pull Spain closer but Taylor flipped in a reverse layup and a Tiago Splitter slam dunk with five seconds remaining sealed Spain's fate.

Pau Gasol had 25 points and Marc Gasol 20 to lead Spain.